

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 00676 241132Z
ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 /014 W
-----241133 026142 /20
R 241045Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6764
INFO USIA WASHDC

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DEPARTMENT FOR CU/ARTS, USIA FOR INA, ICS

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: SCUL
SUBJECT: ART THEATRE BALLET

REF: (A) TOKYO 922, (B) STATE 051929 (C)

1. PAUL SZILARD, REPRESENTING ART THEATRE BALLET (ATB), IN COLOMBO JANUARY 28, 29 REQUESTED INDIVIDUAL APPOINTMENT WITH DIRECTOR, CULTURAL DEPARTMENT, GSL, MINISTRY OF CULTURE, TO ARRANGE THREE PERFORMANCES CO-SPONSORED BY CULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

2. DIRECTOR GENERALLY DECLINES TO PROGRAM FOREIGN GROUPS WITHOUT RECEIVING APPROPRIATE EMBASSY ENDORSEMENT. SZILARD, REPORTEDLY USING VERY HIGH PRESSURE, EXTRACTED VERBAL CONCURRENCE T PROGRAM ATB FROM DIRECTOR PROVIDED EMBASSY ISSUE LETTER OF APPROVAL INCLUDING STATEMENT THAT ATB COMPOSED PRIMARILY OF AMERICANS.

3. SZILARD, BEFORE DEPARTING COLOMBO, IN SEPARATE TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS WITH CAO AND SENIOR
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PAGE 02 COLOMB 00676 241132Z

CULTURAL ASSISTANT, GAVE CONFLICTING INFORMATION REGARDING CONVERSATION INCLUDING "FACT" THAT HE HAD CONCLUDED A "CONTRACT" WITH DIRECTOR.

4. CAO, FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS, INFORMATION CONTAINED IN REFTL (B), GENTLY INFORMED MINISTRY JANUARY 31 THAT EMBASSY COULD NOT ENDORSE ATB SINCE

GROUP NOT REPRESENTATIVELY AMERICAN IN EITHER COMPOSITION OR REPERTOIRE. ACCORDINGLY, MINISTRY SENT LETTER TO SZILARD REGRETFULLY DECLINING TO SPONSOR ATB, INFORMING SZILARD THAT DATES HE SUGGESTED CONFLICTED WITH OTHER COMMITMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SIGNED CULTURAL AGREEMENT WITH OTHER NATIONS.

5. SZILARD TELEPHONED CULTURAL ASSISTANT FEBRUARY 16 FROM GENEVA STATING THAT HE HAD JUST SPOKEN TO DIRECTOR OF GSL CULTURAL DEPARTMENT , WHO ACCORDING TO SZILARD, AGAIN REQUESTED EMBASSY LETTER OF ENDORSEMENT, AND THAT DIRECTOR WOULD CALL USIS. ON FEBRYARY 17 SZILARD CALLED CAO FROM PARIS AND ASKED IF DIRECTOR HAD CALLED. WHEN INFORMED BY CAO THAT HE HAD NOT, SZILARD, FURIOUS, CLAIMED DUPLICITY ON PART OF CULTURE AND DEMANDED THAT EMBASSY AGAIN SEND LETTER. HE ALSO STATED THAT PROPS, EQUIPMENT, ETC. ALREADY SURFACE SHIPPED TO COLOMBO. CAO INFORMED SZILARD THAT CULTURAL DEPARTMENT ADAMANT AND WILL NOT SPONSOR ATB, HENCE EMBASSY CANNOT INTERFERE OR ISSUE REQUESTED LETTER, AND RECOMMENDED COMPLETE CANCELLATION OF PROJECT. UP TO PRESENT TIME DIRECTOR OF CULTURAL DEPARTMENT HAS NOT CONTACTED EMBASSY REGARDING THE MATTER AND CAO HAS NOT BROACHED THE ISSUE WITH HIM, SINCE HIS LETTER TO SZILARD VERY CLEAR AND HAS RING OF FINALITY.

6. PLEASE INFORM SZILARD, THEREFORE, NO CHANCE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 COLOMB 00676 241132Z

PERFORMANCE ATB HERE. HIS ADDRESS: 161 WEST 73RD STREET, NEW YORK 10023. TELEPHONE (212) 799-4756.

7. FOR DEPARTMENT INFORMATION: EMBASSY TRYING TO WALK TIGHTROPE, OBVIOUSLY NOT WISHING TO OFFEND GSL MINISTRY WITH WHICH IT HAS TO WORK AS WELL AS SZILARD, WHO, WE RECOGNIZE, REPRESENTS IMPRESSIVE LIST OF ATTRACTIONS. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES , HOWEVER, CANNOT ENDORSE ATB.
REED

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770064-0230
Format: TEL
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770214/aaaaammy.tel
Line Count: 107
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: f071c1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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TAGS: SCUL, CE, ART THEATRE BALLET, (SZILARD, PAUL)
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